no limits

Brisbane Anarchist Newsletter

ISSUE 2
21 JULY 1980
20CENTS
OR DONATION

PICK THAT UP!
NO
WHAT!!!
YES TEACHER
YOU CAN STAY BEHIND AFTER SCHOOL AND DO IT ALL AGAIN...
YES, DAD
YOU BE IN BY ELEVEN, OR YOU'LL GET A GOOD BELTING...
YES SIR
IF I CATCH YOU SLACKING AGAIN YOU'LL BE OUT ON YOUR EAR...
YES YOUR HONOUR
WE TAKE A VERY DIM VIEW OF SUCH CONDUCT - YOU WILL PAY A FINE OF £50...
YES SIR
..AND SO REGRETTABLY WE WILL HAVE TO GIVE YOU NOTICE..
YES, I SEE...
SO WE'LL REHOUSE YOU AS BEST WE CAN...
YES, DEAR
SO YOU SEE, IT'S BEST THAT YOU GO INTO AN OLD PEOPLES HOME...
SOMETIMES I GET THIS NAGGING FEELING THAT THERE'S SOMETHING I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE DONE IN MY LIFE THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DO...

POLICE GET THEIR ACT TOGETHER

Three years ago the Bjelke-Peterson government banned all street marches This of course did not mean Waranah or the Captive Nations people. It was aimed at the left and in particular the steadily growing anti-uranium movement. The Peterson government has always acted in the interests of the big mining companies and these mining companies have returned the favor (such as the gift of parcels of Camalco shares to ministers, including Joh). In the last three years we have seen repeated attempts to stage street marches, resulting in thousands of arrests. The movement which staged these rallies and marches in the defence of freedom of expression became known as the Civil Liberties Movement.Just how successful the Civil Liberties Movement has been in curbing the excesses of the government and the police can be seen by the passing of the recent amendments to the Police Act. These amendments allow police to make available dossiers on political dissidents to any interested organization or party, wherever they see fit. The other significant amendment gave powers of arrest to a wide range of minor government bureaucrats. Rather than the power of the police being diminished by the Civil Liberties struggle, they have used it as an opportunity to extend the scope of their powers.

This is hardly a surprizing result. Remember the commission of inquiry , which was prompted by the Southport SP bookie case and other blatant examples of police corruption. The commission had numerous cases of gross abuse of police powers brought before it. Even though it accepted that the bulk of these cases were genuine, there was always a tendency to accept the police argument that their powers were too restrictive, forcing them to throw the rule book out the window in order to follow up thier investigations effectively.

The police Dept. at the time pushed very strongly to make it an offence to remain silent when in police detention. They also wanted to hold people for considerable lengths of time without charging them.

The report completed well over a year ago has not yet been made public. So one can only wonder what is in it that the government and police fear!

The Bail Act has recently also been amended. Up till now, if a person on bail does not front for a case, then they forfeit their bail money, and a warrant for their arrest is issued. The issuing of a warrant was at the discretion of the courts. With most minor offences (disobey direction, obscene language, etc.) no warrant would be issued. The courts were only too glad to have these trivial cases out of their hair. But now if you fail to appear, you not only forfeit bail, you have committed another offence in failing to appear, and can be charged with it. Since it is automatically an offence the decision to chase you up or not is no longer in the hands of the courts- it is in the hands of the police. The potential for harassment here is obvious. Consider how many of the thousands of people arrested in the Civil Liberties struggle in the last 3 years have forfeited bail, for a start.

Another amendment to the bail act stipulates that anyone charged with dealing in drugs must apply to the Supreme Court to have bail granted. Considering that dealing could mean having a couple of bags of marijuana, this is pretty heavy. Obviously there is a strong correlation between those people who indulge in illegal drugs and those who hold anti-establishment attitudes. (Though we are well aware of the number of left-wing puritans and fascist heads.) The attitude of the left to the "drug" issue has been one largely of ignoring it. The extreme example can be seen in those "revolutionary" parties which ban all use of illegal drugs by their members. A great deal of the illegal drug traffic passes through police hands.

People not only pay through the nose to these people for the drugs to forget how miserable their lives, they can so easily be busted by the same thugs whenever they become a nuisance. Obviously people's liberty is very much at stake in this issue.

Since the police have been getting away with murder, it would seem that the people of Queensland largely agree with these increases in police power. This is not necessarily true. In a survey conducted in capital cities some months ago, people were asked-should the police have more power? The city where the greatest percentage of people favoured greater police power was Adelaide. The city where the lowest percentage of people wanted more police powers was Brisbane. Clearly the police do not enjoy the confidence of the community.

Although there is a solid percentage reactionary enough to identify with any action of the government and their police, there are many conservative and liberal people who have become very concerned at the draconian actions of the government and its police stooges. The destruction of the Bellevue is a good example- conservative people seem to be much more affected by the destruction of property than they are by the destruction of people's lives.

The point remains that while many people in the community are hostile to the police, they still believe in the rule of law as we know it. A law by which 5% of the population own 95% of the wealth. Such people are therefore objecting not to the power of the police but their excesses. Moreover the bulk of the left's "revolutionaries" also believe in the rule of law, along with the necessary policing of such laws. The average person is even more afraid of the left and the consequences of imposing a new law than they are of the present laws and the police that go with them. (With the Olympics on, we are in for a spate of Cold War horror stories on Russia, many which will be true.)

Clearly it is time to go beyond the march-rally syndrome if we are to effectively challenge the power of the police. The moment marches were made illegal, their sizes dropped drastically. There are many people in liberal reform movements who do not like to act illegally. Jobs are at stake. Besides, it's not really much fun to be dragged off by the police. However people are going to have to face the fact more and more that to live the way they want to they are going to be acting illegally. The average law abiding citizen must be convinced of the danger to themselves of the present trend towards more and more restrictive laws, and more and more intrusive methods of law enforcement.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen believes that conformity is the basis of society, and who knows whose idea of harmless fun is going to be knocked on the head next? At present under the Health Act the po.ice can enter any house to 'search for drugs'. They can pass on any information they like to companies and government departments about an individual, whether it is true or false. The more power the police have, the greater their arrogance becomes, and many 'law abiding' citizens are going to bear the full brunt of this.

Those people who argue for social change must also convince the people at large that they do not stand for more secret police, more laws, more restrictions. Any political party which argues for the party and the state is arguing for the police, not against them. Every state is a police state. Only the **Anarchist** movement has argued consistently against the centralized state and against their professional police forces. We have no freedom or rights that we don't fight for. The police must be opposed not only by resisting their thuggery everywhere it appears, but also by breaking down the acceptance of authority in most people's minds that is the basis of the police state. Our safety lies not in bowing to an authority whose demands are never ending but in resisting it in as rational and non-violent a way as possible.

DON'T PANIC FOLKS, IT'S ONLY A MISTAKE!

"Don't panic folks, its only a routine mistake, and mistakes only prove that the system works!" That was the general response by US defence "experts" to a series of three nuclear alerts that all happened during the last seven months. Each nearly triggered the final World War. Computer malfunctions on the 3rd and 6th of June resulted in US nuclear forces being placed in a state of battle alertness — nuclear missiles armed and ready to launch. B-52 bombers carrying nuclear wepons were also made ready for attack, and communication, surveillance and military bases — including those in Australia — were presumably placed on full alert. The alerts went out following the malfunction of a small computer component in the electronic HQ of NORAD (North American Air Defence Comand) buried ½ a kilometer inside a Colorado mountain. The NORAD HQ are one of several nerve centers of American nuclear "defence" strategy.

The "experts" assure us that the world was never close to nuclear war as a result of those alerts. This is obviously a lie. The fact that these weapons systems even exist places us close to war. The fact that there are people paranoid, greedy and powerful enough to maintain these expensive systems at the cost of neglected human needs on a vast scale places us on the verge of nuclear war. Even some experts involved in nuclear 'defence' are frightened by the prospect of technical failure of the systems 'safeguards.'

John H. Bradley, a former senior engineer on the "World Wide Military Command" recently revealed that the two false alerts were nothing new. During the time he was involved with electronic nuclear defence, faults arose in the system, on the average, every 35 minutes. Gregory L.Berglund a former nuclear weapons controller at the US Bentwaters base in East Anglia was worried about 'loopholes' in the supposedly infallible nuclear alert system. For opening his mouth, he was labelled a paranoid schizophrenic and spent nine months in a US Air Force mental hospital. He only managed to get out with the help of a sympathetic US Senator.

Since 1960, there have been at least six major nuclear alerts (originating in the US, probably a similar number originating in the Soviet Union):

•1961. A mistake in interpreting early warning data resulted is US Strategied Air Command (SAC) nuclear bombers setting off to bomb the Soviet Union. The bombers were called back after 2 hours flight when it was discovered that the orginial signal had been a moon echo.

•1973. A computer wrongly predicted the trajectory of a Soviet test missile, predicting it would land in California. It landed in Siberia. Meanwhile, SAC and ICBM bases were put on nuclear alert.

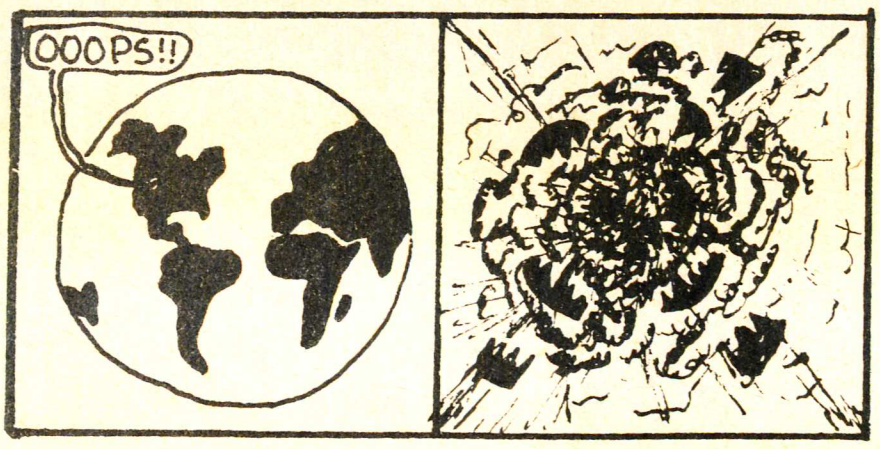
•1974. During a forces readyness test, a message to execute simulated war games was accidentally garbled by the SAC and a real order to launch nuclear missiles was accidentally given. Fortunately there was a slight flaw in the message code and in accordance with validation procedures, the missiles weren't launched. It was a close one!

•9 November, 1979. A computer at the SAC headquarters in Colorado Springs erroneously warned of a Soviet missile attack. This resulted in a full nuclear alert. Nuclear missiles were armed and waiting to be launched, the president's escape plane was made ready, bomber crews were ready to take off and a message went out to all non-military aircraft to land immediately and clear the air if ordered. Six minutes passed before the mistake was found and the alert was called off.

•3 June, 1980. A computer at SAC headquarters in Colorado Springs again falsely predicted a Soviet attack and triggered off a nuclear alert lasting three minutes.

•6 June, 1980. The computer at SAC headquarters falsely predicted another Soviet missile attack, setting off yet another 3 minute nuclear alert. Three minutes is a fair amount of time when one considers that the next World War is expected to last less than an hour according to Jimmy Carter.

In addition to these alerts, there have been plenty of other accidents. The Stockholmn International Peace Research Institute listed 32 major accident and 59 'minor nuclear incidents' in their 1977 handbook. Will the next mistake be the last?



URANIUM FOR INDIA

United States anti-nuclear forces have reacted strongly to a decision by president Jimmy Carter to allow the sale of uranium to India. Indea has repeatedly refused to sign the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (for what its worth), and has been attacked for constructing and detonating a nuclear bomb in May,1974. The bomb was built using plutonium produced from a nuclear reactor donated by Canada, in order to "help develop the Indian industrial sector". Carter's decision is at odds with a resolution by the American Nuclear Regulatory Commission not to sell uranium to India. The sale of uranium to India is part of a growing drive to 'fobb off' dangerous nuclear technology on the Third World because of the soaring economic costs of nukes and growing opposition to nuclear power in the industrialised countries. It is also likely Carter wants India (a country friendly towards the U.S.), to build up its nuclear arsenal as a deterrent to Soviet activity in the unstable Persian Gulf region. The American Congress has 60 days in which to veto Carter's decision.

SHORT CIRCUITING FRENCH POWER STRUCTURE

Several groups in France have launched a campaign to weaken the ability of the powerful to "classify, control and repress." A series of direct actions have been taken againest the ultimate electronic tool of authority — the computer. The 'Organisation Action Directe' have sabotaged the computer tapes and magnetic discs (used to hold massive numbers of records and files) of electronics giants accused of involvement in electronic warfare, surveillance and counterespionage." Action Directe has set off a bomb and fired rockets at the Parisian Transport Ministry (a large user of computers) and has burned magnetic tapes and discs in the Toulouse offices of Philips and CII-Honeywell. Another group — Moutons Enrage's (Angry Sheep) — was also involved in the attack on the Transport Ministry. A third group, CLODO (Committee for theLiquidation or Deterrence of Computers), is made up of computer workers and technicians dedicated to destroying the "favorite instrument of the powerful."

28 members of Action Directe were recently arrested in a massive police dragnet. French authorities, determined to wipe out saboteurs and terrorists once and for all, have joined a European- wide anti-terrorist campaign. The new anti-terrorist goons are based in West Germany and use sophisticated computers to keep files, perform surveillance and solve crimes.

HOT STUFF IN IRELAND

In Ireland, opposition to uranium prospecting is increasing rapidly. On the night following a local demonstration in Fintown, Donegal, the uranium mining companies offices were mysteriously burnt. The fire engines arrived late to the scene, and everything, including the soil samples for testing the presence of uranium, was destroyed. Tractors and other machinery were destroyed by fire on the same night. The local anti-uranium committee of course condemned the 'dreadful sabotage'; however the locals in the area are delighted and more actions seem likey.

undercurrents
No. 40 (June-July, 1980)

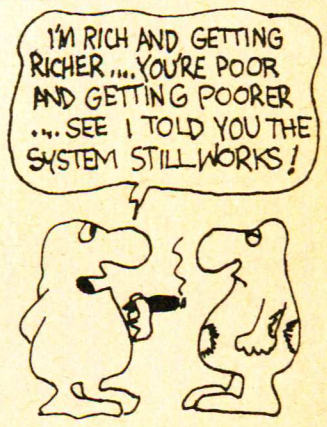
OH NO!
THE IDEOLOGY HAS FINALLY SNUFFED IT...
...COME BACK MARXISM, YOU CAN'T LEAVE US UNSTRUCTURED LIKE THIS... BUT I WONDER IF WE CAN GET AN ACADEMIC TO DO A CHEAP EMBALMING JOB

SCAPEGOATED

"The law in its majestic impartiality, punishes rich and poor alike, for begging alms, sleeping under bridges, stealing bread...."
Anatole France

The above quotation, written hundred years ago, is still relevant today. It illustrates clearly the illusion of "equality of the law". In societies where there is widespread poverty existing alongside vast wealth for a small minority, there can be no such thing as impartiality of the law.

In fact, the whole question of what constitutes a crime is basically a class question.



Obviously, a rich person has no need to steal bread to live. A person living in poverty would be compelled to steal bread to survive, if there was no other option. The law in its majestic impartiality, sends the poor person off to goal - thus compounding the desperateposition the person is in.

The prosecution in Darwin of 7 casual waterside workers is another example of the injustice inherent in the legal system.

The Fraser government has not increased unemployment benefits for so long that they are now well below the poverty line. The actual unemployment level in Australia stands at well over half a million.

Obviously, for many, many thousands of people it is almost impossible to get a job.

Obviously, for many thousands of people it is almost impossible to live on the dole.

The fact that the federal government is spending vast amounts of taxpayers money in prosecuting unemployed people who are doing a bit of casual work on the side, once again illustrates the basic injustice of the law.

Fundamentally, these people are being prosecuted because they are unemployed; that is there crime in the eyes of the ruling class.

The federal government finds it advantageous to make scapegoats of the unemployed - especially since they are the victims of the government's own deliberate economic policies.

The prosecution of the seven casual wharfies has much wider ramifications for all the unemployed.

Just what sort of 'criminals' are these men? Probably the best answer comes from one of the charged men himself: "Over the past six months I have received about $1500 from the wharf. If they (the government) believe this is adequate for a family of four to live on, then I am guilty of whatever they accuse me of".

ANTI-MILITARISM AND THE P.D.D.

In February of this year Prime Minister Fraser issued stirring calls for increased defence capabilities for Australia following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. This was spelt out in more detail a month later by Defence Minister Killen who told us that we would soon be the proud possessors of new naval frigates, 75 new tactical fighters (either McDonnell Douglas's expensive new F18 or General Dynamic's even more expensive F16) and ten new fast patrol ships. The Americans would be offered Cockburn Sound in W.A. and, as well, some 1000 men a year are to be added to our permanent forces and the army reserve is to be increased by 8000 to 30000 (after a recruiting programme costing $1million).

All these announcements passed largely unnoticed by the Australian public. However many were forced to sit up and take notice earlier this month when Defence Minister Killen announced that the Australian government was not going to reintroduce conscription. If Killen were going to so much trouble to deny such a policy, it was felt, then there must be something in it.

Time may well show this scepticism by the public to be unwarranted. There is, apparently, at least some support in Cabinet for the re-introduction of conscription (and certainly among conservatives in general) and if the government is to unable to persuade sufficient numbers of young men to join both the permanent army and the reserve, then the push for conscription will be a mighty one indeed.

The other important point about Australian military purchases and defence policies is that they fit comfortably into the framework of "over the horizon" defence. In other words, we can best defend our shores by taking preventive measures such as the armed support of friendly governments (e.g. U.S. client regimes like Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea) which come under attack from their own subjects.

When this new, dynamic Australian defence policy is analysed in the context of U.S. policy in Asia and the Pacific, then it becomes obvious that an even more dangerous situation is building. Carter's attempts to re-heat the Cold War the"putting behind us" of the Vietnam war, the scrapping of the SALT talks and the growing alliance with China, together with the re-confirmed commitment by the U.S. to the support of the corrupt, Asian dictatorships which are becoming increasingly unpopular, all means that Australia is tying itself in with an aggressive, imperialist power which realises that it must retain the option of military intervention in the affairs of countries which lie within its empire. New Vietnams will no doubt occur in Asia in the years ahead and the chances are quite strong that Australian conscripts will once again play the role of hired killers for the maintenance of American power.

The people for direct democracy.

At the present time the dangers associated with the renewal of Australian militarism have not become very obvious. However the signs are there to see and they all point in the one direction - conscription of Australian youths in the short term and military intervention in Asia in the slightly longer term.

Since we will have to fight this militarist monster anyway - sooner or later - I suggest that we begin to organise for it immediately. The best way to do this, I believe, is with an organisation which has a high level of theoretical agreement but which is decentralised rather than monolithic, which is steadfastly committed to non-violence, and which espouses and practises direct democracy as its chief organizing princial. Apart from such day-to-day issues as co-ordination of activities and finances, the P.D.D. would have to establish what it regards as the lowest common denominator of agreement between all the individuals and groups in three major areas. These are:

- our vision of a future society,
- the strategical principals to which we would adhere,
- principles of internal democracy.

To be effective that lowest common denominator should be as high as we can make it so that it does not become a meaningless facade but still allow the groups and individuals as much free scope as possible to work out their approaches to theoretical and practical issues.

The P.D.D has the potential to be a very significant movement. For the last 18 months or so the P.D.D. has operated at a very low-key and ad hoc level but has, nevertheless,been the medium for a significant amount of co-operative activity between radical Christians, radical ecologists, communitarian groups, libertarian socialists and others. The time has now come to see whether the basis exists for a more definite structure and theoretical agreement to emerge. If we can thrash out such a structure and agreement, and do it reasonably quickly, then we can launch a far more effective struggle to defeat the vile plans of the elites of this world. Even if we are not immediately flung into the bitter struggle against militarism that I have predicted(e.g. in the unlikely event that the ALP wins the next federal election), the process of discussion and debate which we will have entered upon will have been well worth the effort. It will certainly provide the basis for other campaigns we may be involved in against authoritarianism.

PROFIT BEFORE PEOPLE

Once again Queensland's "residential Tenancies Act" has been shown to be not worth the paper it is written on.

In late May some 25 adults, 10 kids and one on the way, were given 7 days notice to quit and no reason.

The Notice to quit stated 'No discussions can be entered into.'

As well as the human element, a wide variety of pets ranging from a crippled butcher bird to the mandatory house cat, plus 6 large houses and well over an acre of uncharacteristically healthy vegetation were put at risk.

Yes, progress is here to stay.

In this case progress is defined by two towers and four town houses of luxury apartments to replace the 20 rather dilapidated flats. The clientele will also undergo some changes.

On Saturday morning, 24/5/ , a representative from Swift Constructions P/L, a representative from Benjamin Smith Real Estate in Toowong, a legal advisor and another, did the rounds of the flats bounded by Coronation DRIVE and Dunmore Tce. They were asking for the occupier of each of the flats, asking how much rent they owed and serving Notices to Quit on them.

The were offering a refund of the bond (less the rent owing until the expiry of the Quit notices) in return for an undertaking to leave.

Unfortunately not many of the tenants were impressed by this approach and suggested that, in fact, two weeks was at least mandatory. After some discussion along the way the legal advisor agreed that perhaps two weeks would be okay. They then revisited the tenants and altered the Notices accordingly.

But still some tenants were ungrateful. Many, in fact nearly all expressed the view that it would be unwise to pay any rent if they were being evicted. One young man said "They must have thought we were stupid."

Early that afternoon a very frustrated representative from Swift constructions left, but not without assuring the tenants that the place will be pulled down and they would start in two weeks.

In fact they started a lot earlier than that. The next week to be precise.

On Monday morning various people started soliciting legal opinion and aid. By the end of the week three different opinions had been sought and in the next week or so two others were obtained.

The opinions ranged from "You have got three months before they can get you out, and they need a court order." To the less optimistic "They can come in whenever they like, and you don't have a leg to stand on."

Solicitors made written and verbal contact with the companies, but to no apparent avail. As soon as one house was empty they started to wreck it. Not in the usual fashion but very much a la Belle Vue. The object was intimidation of those remaining. It was very effective. It appeared that unless sight preparation was completed by June 28 they (Swift Cons.) would either loose their authority to go ahead or have to pay Watkins Construction Co. large ammounts of money in penalties or both. In any case it was clear that they had left it a bit late.

Many tried to find alternative accomodation, but they were either unemployed (that's bad), had children (that's bad) or pets (that's bad, too) or a combination (that's terrible). One tenant had been there for 35 years. A young couple and two children had to split up until after the husband's exams. He stayed with friends and the rest went out west to stay with the mother's parents. Other tenants just had to go and stay with friends.

One case was particularly disgusting. On the 31/5/80 the occupants of flat 3 were given a proper Notice to Quit (unlike and one else) for two weeks with the reason that the outstanding rent was incorrect and so were one or two other details. So they had until 14/5/80 to leave. On the tenth, the manager came around 'to see how things were going' and they told him that they had another flat to go to, but they were waiting for the tenants there to leave (ironic isn't it?). He was unimpressed by this and said that he was going into town to buy a house so that they can be moved because the house was going to be pulled down in two days.

Flat 1 had been vacant for some time and the occupant of flat 2 had rented another flat the day before, although the manager didn't know that . The next afternoon a removal truck arrived (compliments of quess who?) and so a lot of their furniture etc. was dragged out of the house.

On the morning of the twelfth, the woman in flat 2 awoke to the sound of banging on the roof. It was 6:30am. She went outside and narrowly avoided being decapitated by a sheet of roofing iron. The demoltion process was not interrupted for them to move the rest of their belongings. Nor was the $7,000,000 event going to wait until the remaining furniture in flat 2 was removed. It might not have looked like the latest in teak veneer (real silky oak) but it was all the occupant had.

In contrast to the attitude of the 'developers' and their creed of progress,

continued on page 5

Want To Buy A Wilderness ?

Between the 7th. and the 13th. of June there were two conferences organised in Cairns.

One was the 2nd. World Wilderness Congress, organised by a group of business people and sponsored by the federal and state governments and major interest groups such as MIM, BHP, Comalco. The other conference was the World Environment Conference commemorating World Environment Week. It was organised by the Northern Lands Council and other people who are concerned about the environment we live in.

The **WWC**theme was to describe Cape York as a wilderness area. From statements by the organizers it is plain to see that their ideas of a wilderness is very different to that of most conservationists. One of the statements made at the first **WWC** held in South Africa was that the hunting of animals for sport should be encouraged as it actually strengthens the species. This kind of thinking prevails in the token gestures such as token wilderness congresses that repressive, insensitive and money oriented governments give to the public. Their mentality extends to the suggestions of mining of land not being harmful to the environment. Also that complete restoration of mined areas being possible. Perhaps these beliefs suggest how and why the **WWC** obtained the sponsorship of the mining companies and their mates, or were these statements because of the sponsors?

The **WWC**was a farce from begining to end. Just how could there be an honest and open presentation and discussion of factors concerning the environment when the whole congress is being sponsored and subsidised by large mining interests, and the state and federal governments? We all know how much these people want to conserve the environment. Secondly one needed $175 to attend the congress which put it out of the reach of most ordinary people. However the congress was not meant to be for ordinary people. The high entrance fee was perhaps an attempt to recoup some of the expence of flying an American indian princess here as well as the South Africans.

Because of the obvious bias on the part of the **WWC** an alternate congress was organised.

The **NLC** is a group of aborigines who are organising around land rights and other interests concerning the disposessed owners of Australia. Being a body of people independant of state and federal governments (who refuse to recognise or fund them) the **NLC** is obviously struggling uphill.

The **NLC** was refused permission to speak at the **WWC**. Obviously what they had to say concerning their land, their home, was not in the interests of the sponsors. The absence of the aboriginals from the **WWC** shows it to be the sham that it was; ignoring the fact that the white superstructure invaded aboriginal territory in the 18th. century and has continued to conquer every aboriginal group or individual in the interests of profit and power. The aborigines B.C. (before Cook) were among the greatest conservations this planet has supported.

Contary to the patronising basis of the **WWC**, the alternate conference was based on the theme of 'development without destruction''.

Begining with some tree planting at the Cairns airport the alternate conference began on world environment day June 5th. and was offically opened by the Yarrabah dancers who performed their opening ceremony dance on the 8th. June.

Aborigines and islanders talked about what it is like to live under the repressive Queensland Acts which govern their lives. A quote from the committees newsletter illustrates our brief and violent history in Australia. ''All this land was stolen from the aboriginals when Australia was invaded in the 18th. century. The land was forcibly taken through armed conflict, cold-blooded murder, poisoning of waterholes, spreading of diseases and a continuing policy of genocide. The remaining aborigines were rounded up with much less respect than that afforded to cattle, and herded into compounds and penal settlements, which have since been called reserves.

In these compounds aborigines, ridden with alien diseases, were forced to exist under the most severe conditions without medical treatment , clean water or food in the hope that they would exterminate themselves. Those aborigines who resisted were shot down or hung in the most barbarian fashion. While this practice went on the white invaders staked land claims and began their relentless destruction of the land, the wildlife, the wilderness and all its priceless values. Miners dug mammoth holes and polluted the rivers , farmers chopped and burnt out forests(in particular rain forest) , the graziers slaughtered wildlife and the governments backed them as they do today.

For 50000 years before the invasion the aborigine protected the land with meticulous care and determination and during this era gained and developed mammoth knowledge and respect for the land.

In less than 200 years the white invaders have destroyed most everything the aborigine protected.''

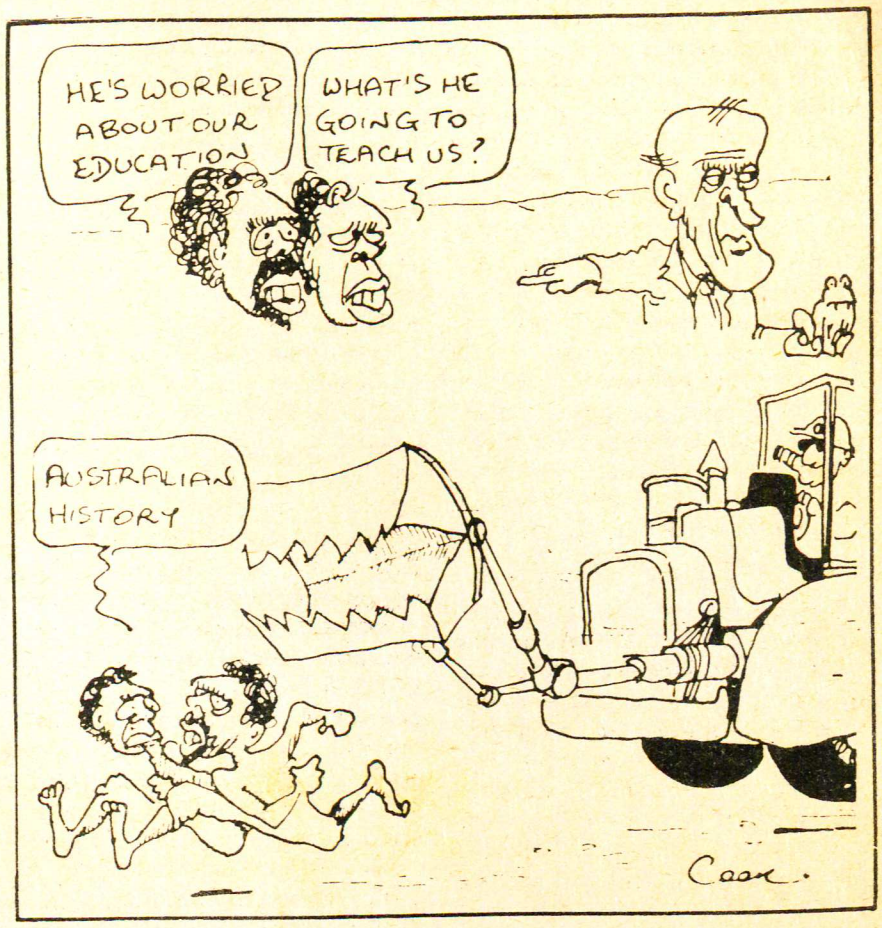
The fact that 90% of the present population of Cape York Peninsular is aboriginal shows the self interested bias of those that have organised the **WWC**.

The fact that their advertising posters depicted an aborigine with the caption 'call of the wild' shows the racism that underlies their so-called concern for wilderness areas, and their patronising motivation for 'progress'. The concept of wilderness does not exist for aborigines who come from Cape York or anywhere else in Australia. Their reality stems from the land being their **home**.

The alternate congress was organised so that people who have cared so much for their homes, which others now claim is private property, can speak and show those who listen that governments are primarily interested in power and money. In our present cash society aborigines can find no comfortable place to exist. Having had their land, culture and themselves raped by white western society, they are trying to hold onto the threads of their traditional past while living in a confusing and demanding present.

Many aborigines are living under the repressive Queensland Acts from which the South African apartheid laws are derived. However they are in a more difficult position than South African blacks before they have been herded onto reserves away from their traditional lands, and have thus been deprived of any ancestral claim to their original birth places. This situation has been deliberately set up by the government which places the ancestral ownership demand upon aborigines today to ensure that they have minimal chance of ''bonafide'' claims to any land.

With the **WWC** taking place in the civic centre opposite Munro-Martin Park where most of the alternate conference was held, the opportunity



was there for delegates to the **WWC** to listen to the north queensland aborigines who had no legal way to enter the civic centre. A few of the delegates strolled over to the park .

What the alternate conference seem -ed to lack was any definite direction or purposeful action for now and the future. We know why we must act, but the question that remains is how do we change the situation?

Many aborigines have been fighting against the government not only for cultural and personal freedom, but for their very existence. The methods of resistance to government and multinational control have been largely unsuccessful to date and future resistance must be on many levels and as varied and creative as possible. Much of the time spent on the alternate conference seemed to be in areas of consciousness raising which is still needed by the majority of the Australian population. Definite programs for social change were not forthcoming from the **WEC** , and this is an area where all those interested must develope and contribute .

QLD UNI HELPS OMEGA

A Queensland University radio research station on Bribie Island is to become part of a nationwide system of recording stations set up to study the U.S. military OMEGA base in Victoria, once it becomes operational later this year.

The University of Queensland has been given a $15,000 grant by the Commonwealth Department of Transport, to study the radio signals emanating from OMEGA. The Physics Department, led by Dr. J. Crouchley, will study variations in the signals and the effects of disturbances from x-ray bursts from the sun and the precipitation of electrons. The results of the study will be passed on to the Commonwealth Department of Transport [**and presumably the U.S. military as well**] so that the accuracy and variability of the system can be assessed. Presumably 'improvements' will then be made, enabling OMEGA to function more efficiently.

The OMEGA base, located near Yarram, in South Gippsland is one of the world's eight operational OMEGA bases, and one of five major U.S. military installations in Australia. The OMEGA bases, operated by the U.S. military, are designed to allow submerged submarines [Trident subs in particular] to recieve precise navigational data while still submerged. The bases transmit very low frequency (VLF) radio waves; the only type capable of penetrating the ocean depths or sea ice. Since only reception is required, submarines do not reveal their position. The system's precision has been developed to give sufficient accuracy for a nuclear strike from submerged submarines. The OMEGA base is part of a network of four military communications bases in Australia which are central to the new U.S. 'first strike' nuclear strategy. OMEGA, like the other bases, is an indispensible part of the first strike strategy. OMEGA will provide navigational information for the new U.S. Trident nuclear submarines. The Tridents, under a recent defence agreement between the U.S. and Australia, will have berthing and servicing facilities at Cockburn Sound in Western Australia. Australia will soon be servicing submarines which carry enough nuclear weapons to deliver 408 nuclear blasts, each five times the size of the one which levelled Hiroshima. Each submarine will therefore command a destructive nuclear arsenal rivalled only by the Soviet Union and the U.S.

Prime Minister Fraser and Defence Minister Killen have recently been attempting to take the heat off the OMEGA issue by claiming that the base will only be used for civilian navigation. However the U.S. navy has admitted that the OMEGA bases have a military role, and the Soviet Defence Ministry has announced that it considers OMEGA (and other U.S. bases in Australia) a military threat. Consequently the bases have been targeted with Soviet nuclear weapons in case of the outbreak of hostilities with the U.S.

In 1968 the people of New Zealand refused to allow the construction of an OMEGA base in that country. Opposition to the base was so widespread that Australia was chosen as an 'alternative site'.

BOOK REVIEW

Big Brother or Democracy
Edited by Pat Flanagan

The Secret State
Richard Hall

The ASIO bill passed recently by the Federal Parliament will allow the Fraser government to fight its cold war on the home front after the Olympic flame is extinguished in Moscow. The legislation, a result of the Hope Royal Commission on Intelligence and Security, legalises many of the agency's previously illegal activities; phone taps, harrassment, tampering with mail..... It also attempts to silence opposition to the agency by people who are justly concerned that ASIO will become more active in the political future of the country.

At a national level there is ample evidence of the role played by the agency in the 'coup' against the Whitlam government in 1975, and much earlier in the defection of the Russian agent Petrov, thereby robbing the then labor leader Evatt of victory against the Menzies government in 1954. Richard Hall's book provides a very readable account of the history of ASIO and the other secret agencies and their involvementin Australia's political past. It is the first full length book to deal exclusively with this subject.

Before the Chifley Labor government set up ASIO in 1949 "security and the national interest" was presided over by military intelligence types (including Governor Generals) some of whom were known to have been associated with the secret, private armies raised to defend Australian society against the evils of bolshevism. The general's decisions to raise such secret bodies epitomised very well the alienation of themselves and a number of their collegues from the democratic processes which they were convinced could not cope with the threat of subversion. These kinds of ideas did not pass away with the demise of the early intelligence organisations and the private armies, but have persisted to dominate intelligence thinking until very recently. Such beliefs are the key to the presumptions underlying the mentality of the dominant group in ASIO since the early 1950's, often referred to as the gnomes of Melbourne.

In the 30 years since its formation and at a cost of untold millions of dollars (it's budget is kept secret even from the federal parliament) ASIO has not brought to ground one spy, traitor, terrorist or saboteur. On the contrary, it has aided the Ustasha and other right wing paramilitary groups and has exercised political discrimination and intimidation against untold thousands of people whose only crime was "improper political activity". A number of theories implicate the secret services, ASIO included, with involvement with the letter bombs dispatched to Kerr, Fraser, and Petersen during the 1975 election campaign and more recently with the bomb explosion at the Hilton Hotel in Sydney.Both occassions provided the opportunity for the government and the security services to call for and implement stricter anti-terrorist measures, yet no person or group has claimed or been shown to be responsible for these explosions. This gaining and exercising of increased power by the secret police is identified in **Big Brother or Democracy** as a basic aim of these organisations as is the defence of the dominant power relations and institutions of the prevailing social order.

Hall, who is at pains to be unbiased, fails to draw the logical conclusion from his discussion of the political police : that they should be abolished because of the threat they provide to the exercise of critical intelligence by social critics and movements seeking a more rational and just social order. Instead after a long discussion of the bumble footed uselessness of such organisations he meekly justifies their existence because organisations of the left are prepared to defend themselves against ruling class violence. His view is similar to the ALP's, who only expressed opposition to the legislation because it failed to make the agency more efficient. This class collaboratory position, it is argued in **Big Brother or Democracy** , is all that can be expected from the ALP and other organisations of social democracy whatever the illusion or rhetoric of individual members who profess to represent the working class.

The essays in **Big Brother or Democracy** deal directly with the threat of an Orwellian future as a consequence of the increased powers granted to ASIO by the legislation. Previous discussion of the secret political police has been limited to the actions of the agencies and has not questioned the central ideological assumption used to justify the existence of these secret bodies : that they are necessary for the maintenance and preservation of the democratic way of life. **Big Brother**'s radical analysis and libertarian socialist solution to the problem of ASIO in particular and political police in general is refreshing and most welcome. Democracy is the control by people over all the conditions - economic, political, technological, educational, cultural - of their lives and not the election of ones oppressors for the next three years. The circle cannot be squared. Accordingly the only genuine solution to the contradiction between the secret police and democracy is the abol ition of the secret political police.

1
Never underestimate the threat from those who oppose our most cherished ideals...
2
We must endevour to protect peace, freedom, security, law and order...
3
And that means fighting for the sake of peace!
4
...and curtailing freedom for the sake of freedom...
5
It even means breaking the law in order to protect the law...
6
And if we have to kill those who fail to hold human lives sacred, then by all means...
7
A despicable theory... but, my! what a convincing speaker!

continued from page 3

the occupants of flat 3 risked life and limb to drag out what was left inside of both flats.

The happy ending is that the site was ready in time and no-one was inconvenienced.

The unhappy ending is that the Residential Tenacies Act of 1974 is such a useless piece of paper. A close reading reveals that there are no penalties if a landlord fails to comply with its provisions. What the Act does state is that if the landlord wishes to apply for an order to effect recovery of their dwelling house, they must do several things first. But thats only if they want to apply to the Magistrates Court for the order. What if they don't want a order?

Another problem with the Act is that there are no interpretations because no tenant has taken a landlord to the Supreme Court, a rather costly affair especially if the tenant loses and gets costs awarded against them. However in an attempt to limit government interference in the private sector, the landlord need only go to a Magistrates Court to have his complaints heard.

As a postscript, the author(who shall remain nameless to protect the innocent) has a acquaintance who, when living in Ascog Tce. had a very similiar run in with the same man for the same reason. Her place was pulled down in two weeks too. Apparently his idea is to leave the tenants there til the very last minute 'to cover his rates' as the manager put it.

POSTBOX

Dear No Limits,

I'm in the process of organising a Conference (?) on 'Libertarian Politics and Alternative Life-Styles' in Canberra around October-November this year, and trying to test enthusiasm and get ideas about content, etc.

My particular concerns for the gathering are:

1) To reach a wider audience (or start to(with the reality of left libertarianism;

2) Stir the 'activists', especially the men, with a strong sexual politics component;

3) Politicise the alternative life-styles movement.

So, the program I'M working with at present is:

Saturday

9.00-10.00 Introduction to Libertarianism- Left and Right.

Introduction to Alternative life-styles- Old and New.

10.00-11.30 Anarchism and the environment.

11.30-1.00 Urban Possibilities.

2.00-3.30 'The State'- Friend or Foe.

3.30-5.00 To Vote or Not to Vote

Sunday

Anarchism- Old and New

Violence and Non-Violence

Sexual Politics

Personal Change

Male Violence

Anarchism and Feminism

If you have any thoughts on any of the above I'd be pleased to receive them, or if you'd be interested in delivering a paper or leading a discussion, or if you know someone who may be competent and interested in doing either of these things, or any part thereof, I'd be grateful to get suggestions. There probably won't be money to pay for participants, as entry fees for general public will be nominal.

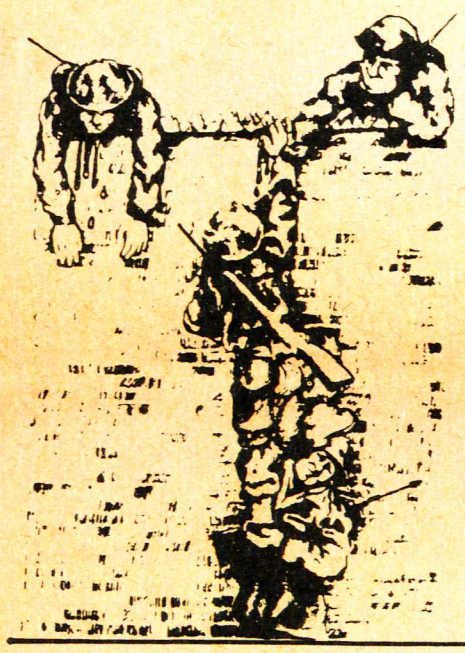
A planning meeting is to be held here on 17 July at my Research and Resources Centre, 7 / 355 Northbourne Avenue, and from that time publicity of exact dates, etc, will begin.

Regards, Bob James.

Printed by Craft Press, Bris.

CONSCRIPTION ?

Following U.S. president Jimmy Carter's repeated threats of military intervention, the United States has moved a step further in preparing for war. The U.S. senate has approved a law requiring 19 and 20 year old males to register for the draft. The House of Representatives has also approved the law, and Congress plans to ask for $13.3 million for computers that will be used to register the potential draftees. Under the new law, which is to be challenged in court by its opponents, failure to register for the draft will mean a 5 year prison sentence. The law has been on the cards for some time, and its initial 'unveiling' by president Carter in his 'address to the nation' sparked off widespread spontaneous demonstrations in U.S. cities and on college campuses. The average size of the demonstrations was between 500 and 3000 with the largest, of 7,000, being held in Los Angeles. These are quite large turnouts for 'spontaneous' midwinter demonstrations. The level of political awareness in the current anti-militarist movement is reportedly quite high, with discussions centering on the military-industrial complex, the role of multinationals in the Third World and human needs. More anti-militarist actions are likely, and a blockade of post offices (where youths will be required to register during a 2 week period in the near future) is already planned.



WHAT A WASTE

Ever noticed how your garbage tin is always too full way before Tuesday, dawn, when it is emptied? Sometimes its full as early as Friday morning- after late night shopping Thursday. For the rest of the week, you're jumping on the lid and stuffing more and more in.

How come we end up with so much junk? Analyse your garbage bin, and you'll see that much of the trash comes from PACKAGING. Almost everything we buy comes in a package of some kind- a package used only once, then thrown away. Total consumption of various packaging materials in Australia at present is as follows:

- Paper and Paperboard: We consume 650,000 tonnes per year of paper for packaging purposes, or 120 kg per head per year. (This is equivalent to nearly one full size tree per year each.)
- Glass: Nearly 75,000 tonnes of plastic went into producing packaging last year in Australia, and the growth rate in this area is over 20% per year.
- Aluminium Cans: 350 million a year, requiring very high amounts of energy to produce.
- Steel Cans: Over 5,000 million per year (390 per head per year.)

Production and disposal of containers and packets has created a massive and dangerous environmental problem. Production uses up scarce resources and fuels. Forests are being eaten up at a frightening rate for paper production: for example, we lose an area of tropical moist forest the size of a football field, **every second**! Global reserves of tin, aluminium and other raw materials, and fossil fuels, are running out. The manufacture of packages often produces harmful by-products. Packages present huge disposal problems.

Thoughtless disposal of wrappers creates litter- an unsightly blight. Organized disposal is difficult- sheer volume of waste means more precious space must be used; containers are largely non-biodegradable and will not break down for many, many years. If they are burnt, cancer-causing fumes are given off. (Polyvinyl chloride produces hydrogen chloride; polystyrene when burned gives carbon monoxide and carbon black.)

How could such a wasteful, ugly, dangerous industry ever develop? The answer lies in the way our modern society is structured and organised, the way our decisions are made and the distribution of power and wealth. Production is not dictated by real human needs and careful utilisation of natural resources- but by 'bottom-line' thinking- the profit motive.

And the packaging industry is very profitable. Australian Consolidated Industries Ltd., a major packaging company, made a record profit in the year to March 31, 1979, of $28.55m.- a 29.5% increase on the previous year; sales increased 19% Containers Ltd., another packaging company, had a 20% profit increase with its $4.87m. profit in the second half of 1979. The industry is huge, and it is growing. Tetrapak, makers of milk and fruit juice containers, had a 1977 turnover of $14m., and this will jump to a projected $45m. in 1980.

Obviously the industry is large and profitable, and has a lot at stake. What can ordinary people do against all of this? On a personal level, you can do an enormous amount:

- Refuse to buy overpackaged goods, especially those in cans, plastic, polystyrene trays or aerosol cans (these have added parts which increase salvage and disposal difficulties.)
- Refuse to buy disposable takeaway containers- eat in!
- Buy only returnable soft drink, milk etc. containers.
- Sort your garbage- send paper, glass to be recycled.
- Squash tins completely before disposal to use less space.
- Don't burn plastic containers at home or put them in the bin for burning at the local tip- recycle them at home, for storage, or donate to kindergartens.
- Start a food co-operative with your friends and neighbours- buy in bulk and save on money and packaging.
- Grow or make as much as possible of your own requirements.
- Agitate at your school, workplace for less waste of paper, less use of disposable material in canteen etc.
- Convince your friends of the necessity for action.

All these things will help ease the packaging crisis, but bear in mind that there are powerful vested interests to contend with. The only way to completely solve the basic problem of this greedy, wasteful industry is to strike at the root of the cause, and to work towards the establishment of an alternative decision-making system altogether, so that each person can control their own life, and so that production is responsive not to sales figures and profits of the big companies, but to real needs.

BABY MACHINES

Recently a 39 year old woman, already the mother of 12, was expecting her 13th child. She was to have the baby by caesarian at a major Brisbane hospital, and requested a tubal ligation at the same time- a simple matter of extending the caesarian operation a few minutes so that the fallopian tubes could be closed and thus prevent future conception. This woman was denied the tubal ligation thanks to the hospital's policy, despite the fact that her health problems — high blood pressure, unhealthy kidneys and an incompetent uterus — meant that a further pregnancy would have been very very dangerous for her. She was forced to return to her W. Qld. country town, and undergo another operation there for the sterilisation.

Already the woman had 13 children to support alone; the hospital's decision took no account of her economic position — let alone her feelings about her own body.

Many people, especially women themselves, feel that it is only fair that women should be free to control their own fertility. After all, women are not baby-making machines! We have lives to lead, interests, jobs, plans, and having a baby may or may not fit in with them.

It is time the hospitals stopped pushing their own narrow, dogmatic moral views — even to the point of endangering the woman's life — upon their patients. The decision-making processes in hospitals and their whole, alienating, hierarchical structure needs to be changed so that all people have more control over their own lives.

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COURT STEALS LAND FOR AMAX

The West Australian premier, Charles Court, plans to have land held under a pastoral lease by Aborigines at Noonkanbah resumed. The Court government is acting on behalf of AMAX Petroleum which has tried to drill wells on the reserve. Aborigines have refused permission because the drilling will disturb sacred sites. On one occasion recently, AMAX tried to move onto a site at Pea Hill, but were physically blocked by the Noonkanbah people. Court and AMAX have been infuriated by the refusal of these people to be dictated to, and have therefore decided to resume both the drilling sites and the access road to the area. This will give them the excuse they need to use force against 'uncooperative lawbreakers' in enforcing the will of AMAX. AMAX Petroleum is a subsidiary of the American multinational American Metal Climax which has investments in Brazil, Canada and Australia [including a 25% interest in the Mt. Newman iron ore project].

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